

Don't spend the winter indoors. This season, bundle up, get out and enjoy all that winter has to offer in Michigan state parks.

BEWABIC STATE PARK (Iron County)

720 Idewild Road

Crystal Falls, MI 49920

906-875-3324

Lantern-lit cross-country ski event, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 4 (Central Standard Time).

Approximately 2.5 miles of lighted ski trails. Refreshments and bonfire before and after.

CHEBOYGAN STATE PARK (Cheboygan County)

4490 Beach Road

Cheboygan, MI 49721

231-627-2811

Lantern-lit cross-country ski tour, 5-9:30 p.m. Jan. 28. Ski through the park with its beautiful views of the Lake Huron shoreline.

HARTWICK PINES STATE PARK (Crawford County)

4216 Ranger Road

Grayling, MI 49738

989-348-7068

Dec. 10-11: Snowshoe Lacing Workshop

Dec. 29: Snowshoe Hike on the Mertz Grade Trail (2 miles), 1 p.m.

Jan. 5: Snowshoe Hike on the Mertz Grade Trail (2 miles), 1 p.m.

Jan. 7: Guided Snowshoe Hikes, 10 a.m. and 1p.m.

Jan. 12: Snowshoe Hike on the Mertz Grade Trail (2 miles), 1 p.m.

Jan. 14: Cross Country Ski by Lantern Light, 6-9 p.m.

Jan. 19: Snowshoe Hike on the Mertz Grade Trail (2 miles), 1 p.m.

Jan. 21: Guided Snowshoe Hikes, 10a.m. and 1 p.m.

Jan. 26: Snowshoe Hike on the Mertz Grade Trail (2 miles), 1 p.m.

Jan. 28: Cross Country Ski by Lantern Light, 6-9 p.m.

Jan. 28-29: Snowshoe Lacing Workshop, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. both days.

Feb. 2: Snowshoe Hike on the Mertz Grade Trail (2 miles)

Feb. 4: Guided Snowshoe Hikes, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Feb. 7: Full Moon Snowshoe Hike, 7 p.m.

Feb. 9: Snowshoe Hike on the Mertz Grade Trail (2 miles), 1 p.m.

Feb. 11: Cross Country Ski by Lantern Light, 6-9 p.m.

Feb. 16: Snowshoe Hike on the Mertz Grade Trail (2 miles), 1 p.m.

Feb. 18: Guided Snowshoe Hikes, 10 a.m. and 1p.m.

Feb. 18 or 19: Sled Dog Demonstrations (TBA)

Feb. 23: Snowshoe Hike on the Mertz Grade Trail (2 miles), 1 p.m.

Feb. 25: Cross Country Ski by Lantern Light, 6-9 p.m.

Feb. 25-26: Snowshoe Lacing Workshop, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. both days

March 1: Snowshoe Hike on the Mertz Grade Trail (2 miles), 1 p.m.

March 3: Guided Snowshoe Hike, 10a.m. and 1 p.m.

March 24: Maple Syrup Day, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information call Hartwick Pines Visitor Center (989) 348-2537.

HOEFT STATE PARK (Presque Isle County)

5001 US-23 North

Rogers City, MI 49779

989-734-2543

Lantern-lit skiing, 6-9 p.m. Jan 21 and Feb. 11. Enjoy northern Michigan scenery. For details, call 989-734-2543.

LUDINGTON STATE PARK (Mason County)

8800 W. M-116

Ludington, MI 49431

231-843-2423

•**Snow Shoe Making 202-** December 4, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost \$180.

Participants will learn to weave a pair of traditional wooden snowshoes, similar to the ones Native Americans made for generations; \$180 includes pre-formed wooden frames, lacing, high-quality bindings and personal instruction. Suggested for ages 16 and older. All classes are held at the Ludington State Park's Warming Shelter. Classes are limited to a maximum of 10 participants with no less than 5 participants. Call Ludington State Park, or email Alan Wernette at wernettea@michigan.gov.

•**New Year's Day Hike**, 2 p.m. Jan. 1, 2012. Snowshoe hike with hot chocolate and a healthy snack. Event will be limited to the number of snowshoes available.

•**Snowshoeing 101** (a Recreation 101 program) taking place at 3 p.m. Jan. 28 and at 3 and 7 p.m. Feb. 11.

MEARS STATE PARK (Oceana County)

W. Lowell Street

Pentwater, MI

231-869-2051

• **Full Moon Night Ski**, Jan. 7

• **Ice Fishing 101** (a Recreation 101 Program) noon-4 p.m. Jan. 14, 21 & 28 and Feb. 18 depending on safe ice.

• **Snow Fest**, Feb. 4 & 5

• **Night skiing and snowshoeing**, Feb. 4 & 11.

Call and check for times and availability.

PORCUPINE MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS STATE PARK (Ontonagon County)

33303 Headquarters Road

Ontonagon, MI 49953

906-855-5275

•**Shoe Year's Eve**

Dec. 31

Bring in the New Year by crossing something off your resolution list! Old-fashioned kerosene lanterns illuminate the entire trail during this night ski and snowshoe! Stop

halfway around the loop at the warming shelter where the park staff will have hot refreshments and a campfire blazing. This trail has an “easy” difficulty rating; however, skiing at night can be a little challenging. Ski or snowshoe your way into the New Year and keep up with your new hobby and join us every Saturday through February. For more details contact the park at (906) 885-5206.

•**Lantern-Lit Skiing and Snowshoeing, Jan. 7, 14, 21& 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18 & 25**

Old-fashioned kerosene lanterns illuminate the trail during this night ski and snowshoe. Lanterns are placed along the entire one-mile loop for an incredible skiing experience. Stop halfway around the loop at the warming shelter where the park staff will have hot refreshments and a campfire blazing. This trail has an “easy” difficulty rating; however, skiing at night can be a challenge. Join us every Saturday through February. For more details contact the park at (906) 885-5206.

•**Telefest Weekend, February 10-12**

Telefest has evolved into a tradition and is a hallmark celebration of the telemark turn. During Telefest, there will be opportunities to try out the latest tele gear, take an instructional course or clinic, compete in races, cut turns in the backcountry, watch a movie, and dance with friends at the chili party. For more details contact the park at (906) 885-5206.

PORT CRESCENT STATE PARK (Huron County)

1775 Port Austin Road

Port Austin, MI 48467

989-738-8663

•**Lantern-Lit Skiing, 6:30 p.m. Feb. 11.** Port Crescent State Park, at the tip of Michigan’s “thumb,” offers visitors the opportunity to get a close-up view of the area’s winter wonderland on a lantern-lit cross-country ski event. For details, call the park.

SLEEPER STATE PARK (Huron County)

6573 State Park Road

Caseville, MI 48725

989-856-4411

Candle-Lit Ski Night, 6-10 p.m. Jan. 14. Enjoy cross-country skiing and snowshoeing along approximately 1.5 miles of trail groomed and lined with luminaries. Enjoy a warming station with modern restroom, a bonfire. Snacks and coffee, cocoa and water provided. The park is open throughout the day for skiing. The candlelight ski event will take place weather permitting. Interested participants should call ahead to confirm, 989-856-4411.

SLEEPY HOLLOW STATE PARK (Clinton County)

7835 E. Price Road

Laingsburg, MI 48848

517-651-6217

•**Snowshoe Building Workshops, 5-9 p.m. Fridays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays on Dec. 2&3; Jan. 20&21 and Feb. 3 & 4** at park headquarter, 7835 East Price Road, Laingsburg.

Taught by Clyde Risdon, of Risdon Rigs. Cost of \$170, payable to Risdon Rigs, covers supplies, materials and equipment to make one pair of snowshoes. Class is recommended for ages 16 or older. Class size is limited. Reservations are required. Call 517-651-6217 or email machowicz@midnrreservations.com.

TAHQUAMENON FALLS STATE PARK (Luce County)

41382 W. M-123

Paradise, MI 49768

906-492-3415

•**Snowshoe Making Workshop**, Dec. 17.

•**Lantern-Lit cross country skiing and snowshoeing**, 5-8 p.m. every Saturday in February.

•**Great Lake Endurance Braveheart series** 5K, 10K and 20K races, Feb. 18

•**Maple Sugaring Days**, March 24-25.

Call and check for times and availability.

WELLS STATE PARK (Menominee County)

N7670 Highway M-35

Cedar River, MI 49887

906-863-9747

•**Lantern-Lit Ski Event**, noon to 8:30 p.m. Jan. 21 (Central Standard Time). Event includes a warming fire at one of the park's rustic cabins (with marshmallows and hot cocoa). If snow is sufficient all of the trails will be groomed and, in the evening, approximately one mile of trail will be lit. The rustic cabins and the Bay Stone Lodge are available for overnight guests. Cycle Path of Menominee will be renting skis and snowshoes as well as demonstrating proper use of equipment. In the event of little or no snow, the trail still will be lit at night for hikers to enjoy. The trails will be unofficially open until the park closes at 10 p.m. Visitors staying in the park can access the trails all night long. For details, call the park, 906-863-9747. For reservations, call (800) 447-2757 or visit www.midnrreservations.com.